



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Little River Salt Marsh

NRCS coordination and technical assistance contributed to one of the biggest salt marsh restoration projects ever. At the Little River the existing 48-inch culvert running under Route 1A in the town of North Hampton was replaced by twin 6-ft by 12-ft concrete box culverts to restore adequate tidal flow to the marsh and relieve storm water flooding problems. The widening of the tidal portion of the Little River and the installation of a new culvert at Appledore road has been completed to accommodate increased flows.

In 1994 NRCS took on the task of providing technical leadership to the town of North Hampton to restore the Little River marsh. In particular NRCS has provided leadership in Ecosystem Restoration and Engineering, which included the first restoration scheme that was based on a detailed study of the history, ecology, and hydrology of the marsh.

NRCS has also provided over \$400,000 in cost sharing for the Little River project through WRP.

Currently, freshwater invasive plants are growing in the marsh, but will be driven back by the salt water that will again flow freely into the upper marsh. Flooding of the houses around the marsh will also be reduced, as floodwaters will be able to flow out through the larger culverts as well. This project represents an enormous success for both the ecosystem and the community.

New Hampshire Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements.

New Hampshire's WRP is often used to demonstrate community-lead ecosystem restoration efforts by funding projects that eliminate human-caused impediments to the proper functioning of high-value and rare wetland systems. In Fiscal Year 2001, seven landowners and units of government applied for funding. NRCS assisted applicants in developing seven contracts, which obligated \$400,000 of federal cost-share assistance and approximately \$300,000 of local funds. Most of the WRP funding provided for ten year restoration agreements.

Accomplishments

Our wetland restoration efforts with WRP have often been high-profile community-lead successes, highlighting the NRCS mission of leadership in a partnership effort. In FY2001, six landowners and units of government participated in the WRP program receiving technical assistance to address wetland restoration and protection issues. Over 90 acres of wetlands were planned for protection and restoration. 25 acres of wetlands are being restored and protected through a permanent easement, and the remaining acreage includes 9 acres of freshwater wetlands and 56 acres of coastal salt marsh ecosystems protected and restored through the restoration easement program.

Program Benefits

In New Hampshire, the WRP program has provided a way to work with local communities and the state to provide technical assistance and limited financial assistance to restore many acres of degraded coastal tidal marshes. Without our initial inventory and NRCS assistance, many of these tidal marshes would have been lost forever.

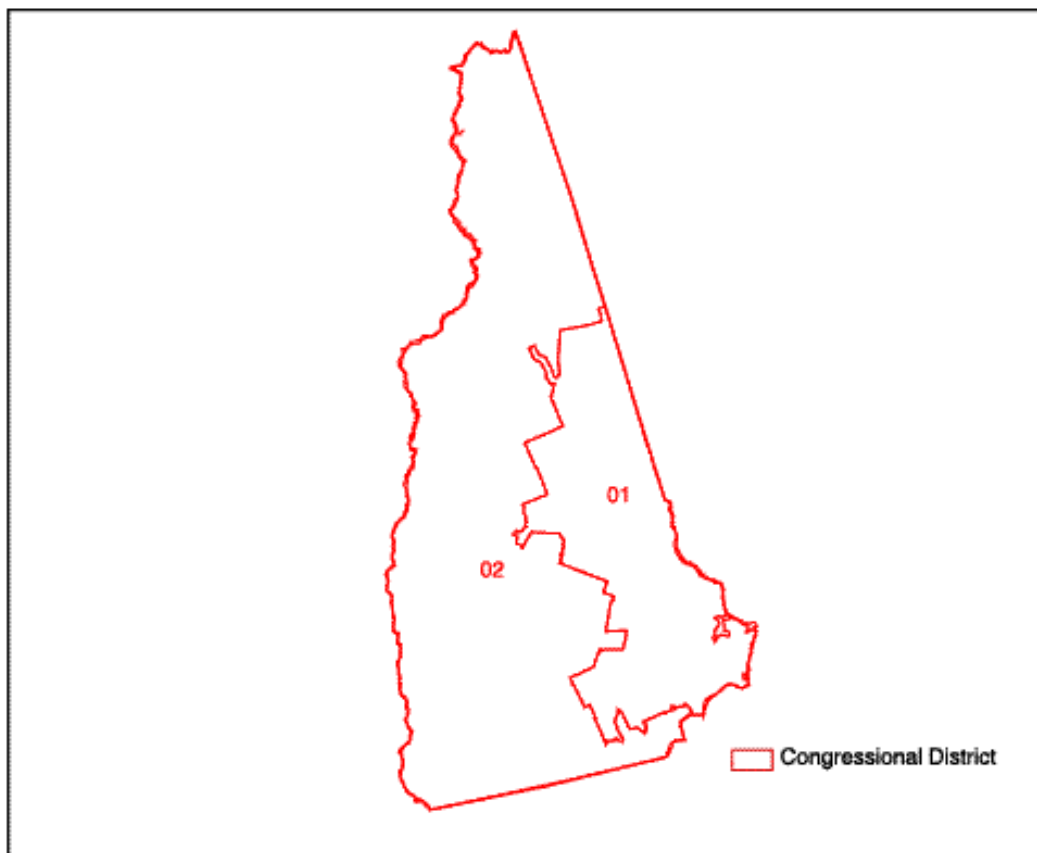
State contact

Richard Babcock, State Conservationist
(603) 868-7581 or rbabcock@nh.usda.gov



A New Hampshire salt marsh, many of which were restored with WRP assistance.

New Hampshire Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



New Hampshire WRP Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts

	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Contracts	Dollars	Contracts	Dollars
District 1	4	\$301,887	27	\$1,096,850
District 2	2	\$98,113	4	\$107,738
State Totals	6	\$400,000	31	\$1,204,588

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.